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THE

Thurrock Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1955

GRAYS.

HIGGINS LTD., PRINTING CONTRACTORS

1956.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. G. BOUL, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., F.Z.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

L. CULLISS (1, 2, 3)

Officer under Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Inspector under Shops Act.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. A. GOSLING (1, 2, 3)

Public Health Inspectors :

R. A. BULL (1, 2, 3) L. H. ASH (1, 2) Resigned July, 1955.

J. M. ANDERSON (1, 2) J. G. CALVERT (1)

R. D. PRICHARD (1, 2)

1. Indicates Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate, Smoke Inspection.

Chief Clerk—Public Health Inspectors' Department :

J. E. BOLTON

Clerical Assistants :

Mrs. D. SAYERS

Mrs. E. BROWN

Mrs. B. DENHAM

G. NOBLE

Mortuary Attendant :

F. J. COSBY

Rodent Officer :

C. L. WILKINSON

Rodent Operative :

C. TUCK

THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

34 CRESTHILL AVENUE,

GRAYS, ESSEX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1955, and my thirty-first Annual Report for the district as a whole.

I am very much indebted to the whole of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department and should wish to place on record, for the information of the Council, my appreciation of the work they have carried out during the year under review. I should also like to place on record my gratitude for the continued support of members of the Council, and Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. T. G. BOUL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Land Area (in acres) approx. ...	...	...	41,000
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	100,900
Product of rd. Rate	...	...	£2,770
No. of Separately Rated Dwelling Houses or Flats	...	...	28,324

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	887	833	1720
Illegitimate	28	27	55
			<u>1775</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 17.6

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total
	417	319	736
Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	7.3
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	31.5
Deaths from Suicide	10
Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents	8
Deaths from other accidents	12

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Routine examination of milk, water and ice-cream supplies were carried out by the Public Health Laboratories, Balmoral Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47).

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 652 cesspools, 649 pail closets in the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following report has been furnished to me by the Chief Public Health Inspector in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

	Visits paid		
Atmospheric Pollution	127
Bakehouses	31
Caravans	64
Common Lodging Houses	3
Dairies and Milkshops	41
Dustbins	447
Dwelling Houses	3003
Factories (Mechanical)	112
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	31
Food Inspection	105
Food Preparation Premises	301
Food Shops Inspection	126
Food Vehicles	116
Housing Repairs—Rents Act	52
Ice Cream Premises	117
Infectious Disease	999
Knackers Yard	3
Licensed Premises	11
Meat Inspection	738
Miscellaneous	856
Outworkers	33
Overcrowding	27
Pet Animals Act	3
Rat Suppression	5943
Refuse Tips and Accumulations	75
Sampling—Cream	1
Food	447
Ice Cream	272
Milk	502
Swimming Baths	13
Water	21
Schools	19
Shops Act, 1950	279

			Visits paid
Stables and Pig Styes	...	...	23
Verminous Premises	...	...	11
Workplaces	...	...	2

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 11 registered dairies as defined by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, 72 licensed persons who retail milk in the sealed receptacles in which it is received at the premises. In addition to the foregoing, 2 outside firms carry on a vehicular trade within the district.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons licensed to sell :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	19
(b) Pasteurised Milk	...	...	23
(c) Sterilized Milk	...	...	82

Pasteurising Plants.

There are two pasteurising plants in the district, one of the H.T.S.T. type, with a 1,500 gallon per hour capacity and the other of the "Holder" type, with a capacity of 200 gallons per hour. Both of these plants have worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

MILK SAMPLES.

Tuberculin Tested.

26 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken, of which 1 was shown to be unsatisfactory, giving a percentage figure of 3.8% unsatisfactory and 96.2% satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a retailer in the area but was produced outside. Further samples have proved satisfactory.

Pasteurised.

354 samples of pasteurised milk were taken, 6 of which were unsatisfactory and 6 tests void. Disregarding the void samples, the percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 1.7%.

The unsatisfactory samples were shown to have failed the Methylene Blue Test, one of these was produced inside the area and the remaining five outside. Further samples from all producers were shown to be satisfactory. It should be noted that all these samples passed the Phosphatase Test.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

68 samples of T.T. Pasteurised milk were taken, one sample proving to be unsatisfactory by failing the Methylene Blue Test. This gives a percentage of 1.4% unsatisfactory.

This sample, produced outside the area, was followed up by further samples which proved satisfactory.

Sterilised.

4 samples of sterilised milk were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

In no case were unsatisfactory samples consistently from any one producer.

Milk—Biological Tests. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

17 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli. No samples were shown, in fact, to contain tubercle bacilli.

WATER.

(a) Sampling.

15 samples of water were taken during the year from the South Essex Waterworks Company's mains and submitted for bacteriological examination.

2 of these samples were shown to be unsatisfactory. Both these samples were taken from the same premises and further samples, when taken, proved to be satisfactory.

2 samples were taken for chemical examination, the hardness in each case was as follows:

(i) Total hardness 390 p.p.m. (225 temporary and 165 permanent).

(ii) Total hardness 370 p.p.m. (215 temporary and 155 permanent).

WATER.

(b) *Statistics.*

- (i) The water supplies of the area have been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.
- (ii) There is no domestic water supply in the area liable to plumbo-solvent action.
- (a) Number of dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to the houses ... 28,260
 Estimated population so served ... 100,678
- (b) Number of houses supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes ... 21
 Estimated population so served ... 73
- (c) Number of houses served by wells or stored rainwater ... 43
 Estimated population so served ... 149

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned at Slaughterhouses.

		Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	...	479	468	167	4249	3052
Number inspected	...	479	468	167	4249	3052
All diseases, except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	2	—	1	20	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	129	102	2	226	185
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	27.31	21.8	1.8	5.77	6.29
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	54	23	—	—	66
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	11.27	4.91	—	—	2.19

Slaughterhouses.

• There are 8 licensed slaughterhouses in the district of which 4 are in regular use.

Knacker's Yards.

There is only one Knacker's Yard in the Council's area, and although it is licensed, it has not been used during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The register of all licensed slaughtermen, is kept in accordance with the above Acts and the number so licensed is 16.

Unsound Food Surrendered.

Cheese	426 lbs.	Meat Pudding	50 lbs.
Cheese	62 pkts.	Mincemeat	1 tin
Confectionery	2 pkts.	Milk	703 tins
Cream	98 jars	Paste	60 jars
Fish	261 tins	Pickles	1 jar
Fish	9 stones	Preserves	135 tins
Fish Paste	5 tins	Rice	1 tin
Fruit	2017 tins	Salad Cream	1 jar
Fruit Juice	10 tins	Soup	192 tins
Fruit (dried)	1 case	Sweets	26 lbs.
Meat	1013½ lbs.	Vegetables	1594 tins
Meat	699 tins	Whelks	43½ lbs.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Those surrendered or condemned foods required by Circular to be returned via trade channels were so dealt with. Other foods were either used for pig food or buried on the Council's refuse disposal site as their condition warranted.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

266 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				Number of Samples
Grade I	...	...	...	210
Grade II	...	...	...	28
Grade III	...	...	...	16
Grade IV	...	...	...	12

The standard of ice cream sold within the Area throughout the year is set out below:—

Producer	Total Samples therefrom	Min. of Health's Provisional Grades				Quality
		I	II	III	IV	
A.	35	17	9	6	3	Unsatisfactory
B.	7	7	—	—	—	Satisfactory
C.	51	47	3	1	—	„
D.	20	13	3	4	—	„
E.	65	55	8	2	—	„
F.	15	3	—	3	9	Unsatisfactory
G.	67	63	4	—	—	Satisfactory
H.	1	—	1	—	—	„
I.	1	1	—	—	—	„
J.	2	2	—	—	—	„
K.	1	1	—	—	—	„
L.	1	1	—	—	—	„
TOTALS	266	210	28	16	12	

Producer A. is situated in the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail their supplies within. Endeavours have been made to obtain a sufficient number of samples to arrive at a reasonable conclusion regarding their general grades. This, as may be seen, is sometimes impossible owing to the fact that production and subsequent sale are sporadic and infrequent.

Of the total 266 samples, 35 were from a Thurrock producer and came within the following categories:—

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				Number of Samples
Grade I	...	...	...	17
Grade II	...	...	...	9
Grade III	...	...	...	6
Grade IV	...	...	...	3

Percentage of Grade I samples...	...	48.5%
Percentage of Grades I and II samples	...	74.2%
Percentage of Grade III samples	...	17.1%
Percentage of Grade IV samples	...	8.5%

FOOD HANDLING BYE-LAWS.

Periodic visits are made to all food preparation premises in the district, including restaurants, hotels, works and school canteens, and constructive suggestions are made. In certain cases, when breaches of the byelaws were found to have occurred, more definite instructions were given.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Section 14.

The records show that there are 206 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream and 110 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of sausages, etc.

FOOD PREMISES.

There are, in the Urban District, the following premises used for the sale of food as indicated :

Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	56
Cafes and refreshment houses	...	...	44
Shops: Fruit and vegetables	...	...	48
Grocery and provisions	...	...	142
Sugar confectionery	...	...	72
Bakers and flour confectionery	...	...	30
Butchers shops	...	...	57
Fried fish shops	}	...	22
Wet and dry fish shops			

SHOPS ACTS, 1950.

From inspections made it is quite obvious that many shopkeepers who employ assistants are not as careful as they might be in keeping the required statutory forms associated with the hours and conditions of employment of young persons.

279 inspections of shops in the area were made to ensure that shopkeepers were, in fact, keeping to the provision of the Acts.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses found to be infested ... 10

This figure does not include houses on the Council's estates which are supervised by the Council's Housing Department.

Where houses are found to be infested with vermin, all rooms affected and all effects therein are sprayed with a vermicide containing D.D.T. A charge is made where the work is carried out by the Public Health Department, on the basis of 7/6d. per room disinfested.

Where it is anticipated that persons are shortly to become tenants of Council houses, their belongings are inspected by the Estates Department and, if vermin are found, the tenant is not accepted until these conditions have been remedied. This work, if required, can be carried out by the Local Authority and charges made as previously stated.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Although the above enactment came into force in September, 1954, applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been infrequent and it would appear that members of the public are ill-informed as to their rights under the Act. The statistics for the period under review are set out below:—

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	16
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ granted	...	4
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ refused	...	12
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ Revocation of Certificates	...	16
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ granted	...	8*
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ refused	...	8

* Includes several outstanding from 1954.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 1175
- (b) Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose ... 3529
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and reported under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925)... 25
- (b) Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose ... 52

3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit	...	...	16
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	532

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their officers	402
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) *Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 :—*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	Nil

(B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	114
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1954) :—				
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	118
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	—

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	3
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	12
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted	...	...	...	—
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	...	...	...	—
(v) Number of houses so rendered fit	...	...	...	—

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit | ... |

LIST OF WORKS EXECUTED.

ROOMS :

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	65
Stripped, cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	2
Plaster repaired ...	...	...	...	105
Floors repaired ...	...	...	...	75
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	37
Stoves repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	29
Doors, locks, &c., repaired or renewed	...	...	...	29
Vermin disinfested	...	...	...	10

STAIRCASES :

Stripped and redecorated	...	...	..	—
Handrails fixed ...	...	...	...	1
Repaired	...	...	.	3

SANITARY FITMENTS :

New sinks, &c. ...	...	..	...	11
Coppers provided/repared	...	..	...	—
W.C.'s and pail closets repaired	...	...	...	59
New pedestals provided	...	...	...	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	..	...	22
Soil or vent pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	11
Pail closets to W.C.'s	...	...	...	4

DRAINS :

Unstopped or repaired	...	..	...	57
Gullies repaired or renewed	...	..	...	6
Inspection Chambers repaired or inserted				9
New Drains	...	...	...	3

WATER SUPPLIES AND FITTINGS:

Repaired or renewed	...	...	...	9
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	134
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	41
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	15
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	154
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	16
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	4

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Section 25. Housing Act, 1936.

During the year two complete clearance areas in St. Chad's Road, Tilbury, were demolished and the occupants re-housed. In all, twenty-four houses were demolished in clearing the areas.

A fairly comprehensive slum clearance plan to be carried out within five years has been prepared and, during the year, three new clearance areas were proposed. One area was dealt with as a Compulsory Purchase Order, a second area, of four cottages, has been confirmed and the third area, consisting of three houses, is the subject of an appeal by the owner.

Two houses were demolished voluntarily during the year as a result of informal action by the department.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 27 investigations showed that 11 cases of overcrowding occurred. These were referred to the Estates Department. It is interesting to note that the Housing Committee's standard of overcrowding is higher than the statutory one.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year, 965 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every complaint was dealt with at the earliest possible moment and any action taken which was deemed necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1948.

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	21	31	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	284	112	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	305	143	3	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers) ...	3	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	2	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 57.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 16 observations were made concerning the discharge of black smoke. The firms were approached informally and in all cases improvements were effected.

Although during the year the Council seceded from the Thameside Joint Committee, the deposit gauges have been kept in operation and the Council has kept close co-operation with the Joint Committee to whom the results have been forwarded.

The results from the deposited gauges for the year under review are appended below:—

Month	Tons per square mile		Mg. per 100 sq. Cm.	
	Cole & Lecquire's Jetty	Ward Avenue Allotments	Sulphur	Peroxide
January	27.34	25.96	1.62	
February	22.42	19.12	2.52	
March	19.83	16.18	1.33	
April	23.75	24.60	1.09	
May	40.10	33.86	0.97	
June	25.57	29.12	0.94	
July	12.82	11.16	0.59	
August	—	26.22	0.78	
September	—	42.63	1.68	
October	38.11	35.21	2.35	
November	22.30	19.49	1.75	
December	30.82	43.29	2.66	

It should be appreciated that so far as these gauges are concerned the result is not limited to cement dust but includes grit and gritty particles from domestic and other sources.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Rodent Operative deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestation. In this connection, private dwelling houses are treated without charge but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. The Rodent Operative carries out monthly treatments at the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tips, and has now taken over Sewer Treatment from the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

I append the statistics below :—

Visits to Private Dwelling-houses	...	...	4728
Visits to Trade Premises	...	...	495
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	...	...	239
Sewer Treatments	...	...	240

FOOD AND DRUGS REPORT.

The following samples of food and drugs were taken during the year :—

Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	48	—	48	—
Patent Medicines	—	13	11	2
Sweets	—	23	21	2
Fish Cakes	—	1	1	—
Tinned Vegetables	—	9	9	—
Cream	—	7	7	—
Preserves	—	19	19	—
Flour Confectionery	—	23	22	1
Desiccated Coconut	—	2	2	—
Tinned Meat	—	12	10	2
Pork Pies	—	1	1	—
Tinned Milk	—	6	5	1
Margarine	—	3	2	1
Crisps	—	1	1	—
Soft Drinks	—	12	11	1
Camphorated Oil	—	1	1	—
Bananas	—	1	—	1
Vinegar	—	3	3	—
Flour	—	1	1	—
Cheese	—	1	1	—
Pepper	—	3	3	—
Stuffing	—	2	1	1
Suet	—	3	3	—
Butter	—	3	3	—
Beverages	—	2	2	—
Sauces	—	4	4	—
Cake—wrapping paper	—	1	—	1
Pickle	—	2	—	2
Custard Powder	—	3	3	—

Article	Number of Formal Samples	Number of Informal Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Soups	—	3	3	—
Icing Sugar	—	2	2	—
Pickled Walnuts	—	1	1	—
Cooking Fat	—	2	2	—
Sausages	5	—	5	—
Fruit Tarts	—	1	—	1
Bread	—	1	1	—
Dried Fruit	—	5	4	1
Meat Pies	—	1	1	—
Salad Cream	—	2	2	—
Piccalilli	—	1	1	—
Tapioca	—	2	2	—
Tinned Fish	—	1	1	—
Bacon	—	1	1	—
Lemonade Powder	—	1	1	—
Meat Paste	—	1	1	—
Cheezkist	—	1	—	1
Fruit, Tinned	—	3	3	—
Rice	—	1	1	—
Gelatine	—	1	1	—
Rennet	—	1	1	—
Nut Oil	—	1	1	—
Flavouring	—	2	2	—
Jelly	—	2	2	—
Candied Peel	—	2	1	1
Ice Cream	—	1	1	—
Cereals	—	1	1	—
	53	208	242	19

NON-GENUINE SAMPLES.

(i) The non-genuine samples of Maltoline with Iron, Glycerine, Lemon and Honey Balsam; Fawn Margarine; Handy Pickle; Cheezkist; Spongie Mixture and Raisin Cordial; were all shown to be incorrectly labelled. In each case, the manufacturers were contacted and the labels amended.

(ii) In view of a complaint by a member of the general public regarding green stains on bananas, a sample was taken and the public analyst gave his opinion that the stains were copper arsenate. This is a preparation sprayed on the bananas whilst growing to protect them against various types of insects. However, bananas are supposed to be carefully washed in the country of origin before shipment overseas and it was obvious that in this case, sufficient vigilance had not been exercised. The retailers and importers were informed and details were sent to the Ministry of Food and all probable Port Health Authorities concerned. An undertaking was finally received that more stringent washing and cleansing measures would be undertaken.

(iii) Two samples of Pork Luncheon Meat were examined by the Public Analyst who stated that one sample was 6% deficient in meat content and the other 25% deficient in meat. Both of these samples were of old imported stock. In the first instance the importers were contacted and decided to cease importation of this commodity. In the second case, the manufacturers, a foreign firm, were contacted by the importing firm and agreed to amend the product.

(iv) A sample of condensed, full-cream milk was stated to be dark brown in colour and probably unsaleable. Further tins of the remaining stock were opened, but were found to be quite normal. No further action was necessary.

(v) The Analyst gave his opinion that a sample of Stewed Beef Steak was deficient in meat. The manufacturers were contacted and later stated that the question was to be taken up with the Ministry of Food.

(vi) A sample of butter drops was stated to be 31% deficient in butter fat. It transpired that they had been in the retailer's possession for sixteen months and had consequently deteriorated.

(vii) The sample of Cooked Beef Steak was shown to be deficient in meat content. The manufacturers eventually agreed to amend the product so as to contain not less than 95% meat.

(viii) Consequent upon the complaint of a baker regarding the bitter taste of a quantity of his cakes, a sample of cake and wrapping paper was forwarded to the Analyst who gave his opinion that the paper was completely unsuitable for the purpose used. The baker undertook to discontinue the use of this paper for wrapping cakes.

(ix) A complaint was received from a member of the public that a fruit tart, purchased from a retailer in the area, contained foreign bodies which, on examination, were thought to be ants. The fruit tart was sent to the Public Analyst, who agreed that they were, in fact, ants. The tart was of the pre-packed type from a firm of excellent reputation and, as it was impossible to decide when the ants had gained access to the tart the actual blame could not, with any certainty, be attributed to any particular person. Warning letters were sent to both the retailer and producer.

(x) The Public Analyst stated that a sample of mixed dried fruit sent to him for analysis were found to contain maggots. The retailer was visited and several more packets inspected but no trace could be found of further contamination. The manufacturer was written and in reply stated that all possible precautions were taken against such contamination and that all fruit from their factory was washed by the latest type machinery.

(xi) A sample of cream doughnuts was stated by the Analyst to contain a cream made up from a margarine type fat, and in his opinion, in view of impending legislation, the manufacturer should be warned that the cream filling should, in fact, be cream.

(xii) A sample of mixed cut peel was stated to be 6% deficient in sugar content. It transpired that the sample was, in fact, from old stock and had deteriorated in keeping.

(xiii) The Public Analyst gave his opinion that a sample of Health Salts was adulterated in that an ingredient had been included in place of another which was included on the label. This ingredient had deteriorated in storage. The manufacturers were informed and promptly withdrew all stock from sale and promised to investigate the matter thoroughly.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASES		Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	77	I	—
Dysentery	...	15	—	—
Pneumonia	...	66	II	I
Infective Hepatitis	...	115	2	—
Measles	...	1836	8	—
Whooping Cough	...	154	7	—
Erysipelas	...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	18	14	—
Food Poisoning	...	37	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	4	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis				
(Paralytic)	...	20	16	I
(Non Paralytic)	...	25	3	—
Meningococcal Infection	..	I	—	—
Typhoid Fever	...	I	I	—
Gastro Enteritis	...	2	I	—

AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	...	3	6	7	13	44	2	1	...	...	1	...	77
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	1	2	5	53	25	10	11	3	4	...	...	115
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	10	3	...	...	18
Pneumonia ...	5	5	7	1	...	12	4	3	9	9	6	5	66
Dysentery ...	1	...	1	...	1	5	1	...	2	2	2	...	15
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	19	16	32	19	19	46	2	...	1	...	...	...	154
Measles ...	60	412	283	278	239	538	16	3	5	1	1	...	1836
Food Poisoning ...	1	2	1	1	2	4	2	...	10	5	9	...	37
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	4
Gastro Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	4	2	...	2	1	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	20
„ (Non-Paralytic) ...	...	2	1	2	3	9	1	1	4	...	...	...	25

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken under the above headings.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
5-14 years	...	3	3	2	...	...	...	...
15-24 "	3	9	1	2	...	1	...	...
25-44 "	5	10	...	1	1	...	...	...
45-64 "	6	4	...	...	4	2	...	...
65 " } upwards }	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals	20	27	5	6	8	3	...	...

